

From: Maria C [mailto:mjecaputo@gmail.com]

Sent: Sun 2/21/2010 11:30 PM

To: Rep. Urban, Diana; Senator Meyer; Rep. Jarmoc, Karen; Sen. Boucher, Toni; Rep. Mioli, Joe

Subject: Support HB 5041

Dear Member of the Select Committee on Children:

I am writing in support of HB 5041 (cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty) and SB 153 (safe harbor for exploited children). Representatives of the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School, of which I am a member, will testify before your committee on Tuesday, February 23.

Our members have been working on both issues since 2007. We have led public awareness activities in southern Fairfield County, held discussions with survivors of human trafficking, and met with animal control officers and caseworkers from the Department of Children and Families. And our volunteer time with children who have experienced or witnessed abuse includes heartbreaking discussions about cruelty against animals.

I know you have a lot to do this session, but I cannot think of two more important pieces of legislation. Both will help promote the emotional and physical health of some of Connecticut's more vulnerable children and teens.

Thank you.

--Maria Caputo